

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193163

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: THE KIN DONG-JO DIALOGUE

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1. WE SEE NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE OF PERCEPTION BETWEEN US. AS INDICATED SATURDAY, WE FULLY SUPPORT WHAT YOU ARE HOPING TO ACCOMPLISH. OUR REFERENCE TO THE "FORMAL ROKG STATEMENT" SUGGESTED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER ONLY IMPLIED WHAT HE HIMSELF HAD SUGGESTED AS DESCRIBED ORIGINALLY IN YOUR 6656. HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZE THE DANGER OF MISLEADING THE KOREANS AT THIS STAGE AND ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT HERE AND IN COORDINATION WITH YOU TO AVOID THIS.
2. BOB RICH MET AT LENGTH TODAY WITH BOTH PETER WHITE AND HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE CHIEF STAFFER JOHN NIELDS. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH O'NEILL'S OFFICE. FOLLOWING COMMENTS EMBODY WHAT HAS EMERGED FROM THESE CONSULTATIONS AS WELL AS EFFORT TO CLARIFY POINTS RAISED IN YOUR LATEST
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MESSAGE.

3. IF THE FOREIGN MINISTER CAN PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ASSURANCES REGARDING KIM DONG-JO'S RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, IT STILL SEEMS DESIRABLE TO US IF THAT COULD BE CONVEYED HERE DIRECTLY TO O'NEILL BY AMB KIM YONG-SHIK, WHO COULD DO SO IN THE CONTEXT OF PERSONALLY GIVING AN INTERIM

RESPONSE TO THE SPEAKER'S LETTER IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT PARK'S ABSENCE ON VACATION.

4. IF THE KOREANS ARE RELUCTANT TO SEIZE THAT OPPORTUNITY, WE WILL OF COURSE PRIVATELY PASS THE INFORMATION TO THE CONGRESS AS YOU ENVISION. OUR WILLINGNESS TO DO SO WAS CONVEYED TO ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR PARK TODAY. ALSO, BOTH NIELDS AND WHITE WERE REMINDED THAT WE ENVISAGED A PRIVATE EXCHANGE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS A BASIS FOR PROCEEDING TO AGREE ON THE SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS TO KIM DONG-JO.

5. WE HAVE NOT CONSIDERED OR PROPOSED MAKING THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ASSURANCES PUBLIC. HOWEVER, O'NEILL'S OFFICE INDICATES THAT THE SPEAKER FEELS UNDER SOME COMPULSION TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ON THURSDAY (AUG 3) WHEN HE RECEIVES JAWORSKI'S LETTER SAYING HE IS STEPPING ASIDE. WE ARE COUNSELING AGAINST ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT FURTHER INHIBIT THE DIALOGUE WITH ROKG, BUT WILL OF COURSE KEEP O'NEILL'S OFFICE INFORMED OF THE GENERAL STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS AND CANNOT PRECLUDE SOME PUBLIC REFERENCE THERETO.

6. OUR REFERENCE TO INFORMAL INDICATIONS FROM KIM DONG-JO THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPLY HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT ONE OR MORE SPECIFIC CONGRESSMEN WAS DEFINITELY 'OT CONFIDENTIAL

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INSERTED AS AN ADDITIONAL "CONDITION". WE ARE CLEARLY AT THE JUNCTURE WHERE WE AND THE KOREANS MUST BE SURE WE ARE NOT MISREADING EACH OTHER, HOWEVER. THE INFORMATION SUGGESTED WOULD CLEARLY REMOVE THAT POSSIBILITY. THE OTHER WAY YOU MIGHT USE SUCH A SUGGESTION IS TO BE SURE THAT ALL CONCERNED THERE UNDERSTAND THAT ASSURANCES THAT KIM WILL BE HELPFUL MUST MEAN THAT HE WILL BE PREPARED TO SUPPLY USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING A MEMBER OR MEMBERS OF OUR CONGRESS. IF THIS IS NOT UNDERSTOOD BY THE ROKG, THEN WE DO RUN A RISK OF STARTING A PROCESS WHICH WILL LATER BE UNACCEPTABLE AT THIS END.

7. WITH REGARD TO THE FORMER KCIA STATION CHIEF AND DEPUTY HERE, YOU MAY CONSIDER WHETHER THE FOLLOWING IS USEFUL EITHER IN YOUR CONVERSATION WITH KCIA DIRECTOR KIM JAE-KYU AUG 1 OR THROUGH INDIRECT CHANNELS. NIELDS AND WHITE HAVE UNEQUIVOCALLY REAFFIRMED THAT IF KIM DONG-JO'S COOPERATION IS RECEIVED THEY WILL NOT RPT NOT SEEK FURTHER KOREAN WITNESSES. FURTHERMORE, THEY WILL NOT PRESS KIM REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF HIS KCIA COLLEAGUES. HOWEVER, THE INVESTIGATORS ALREADY HAVE SOME SIGNIFICANT INFOR-

MATION REGARDING RELEVANT ACTIONS OF THESE TWO. IF
USEFUL TO YOU, NIELDS AND WHITE BELIEVE THEY CAN OBTAIN

HAVE TO MAKE THEIR KCIA INFORMATION PUBLIC IF KIM DONG-JO
IS COOPERATIVE. OTHERWISE, THAT INFORMATION WILL HAVE TO
BE USED. IF WORTHWHILE, WE COULD ARRANGE FOR THE RELE-
VANT EVIDENCE TO BE SUPPLIED TO THE KOREANS SO THAT THEY
COULD EVALUATE HOW USEFUL SUCH A BARGAIN MIGHT BE.

8. YOU WILL RECALL JAWORSKI'S EARLIER STATEMENTS TO AMB
KIM YONG-SHIK THAT, IF THE ROKG COULD BE HELPFUL IN
COMPLETING THE COMMITTEE INQUIRY THROUGH INFORMATION FROM
KIM DONG-JO, THEN HE WOULD GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO PRAISE
THAT COOPERATION PUBLICLY. RICH RAISED THIS SUBJECT AGAIN
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TODAY WITH WHITE AND NIELDS. BOTH STATED THAT THEY WOULD
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SEE THAT HIGH-LEVEL PUBLIC APPRE-
CIATION WAS EXPRESSED OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT'S COOPERA-
TION IF WE COULD SOLVE THIS ISSUE. THIS MAY YET BE A
USEFUL CARROT TO PERSUADE THE ROKG THAT THERE IS A WAY
POLITICALLY TO EXPUNGE THIS SORE FROM THEIR RELATIONS
WITH THE U.S. CONGRESS AND FROM THEIR NOW TAINTED IMAGE
AMONG THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

9. LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN BEST FURTHER SUPPORT YOUR
EFFORTS AT THIS STAGE.

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